



East-enders

Newsletter of
Zonta Club of Brisbane East

GPO Box 3060 Brisbane 4001

Charter Number 1235

September 2004

Next Dinner Meeting

Monday

11 October

Pre-Dinner nibbles 6pm
Committee Meetings 6.15pm
Dinner 7.30pm –9.30pm
At

Good Earth Hotel

Wickham Tce
(Ground Floor)

Cost \$32.00 each

\$5 Meeting only

(This includes one raffle ticket)

Apologies to

Karen Hendry

AM Monday 11 October

3262 2864

Mobile 0419 027 156

*In absence on an apology an
invoice for \$27.50 will be sent to
all non-attending members.*

PRESIDENT'S PATTERN

Breast Cushions

Our last Breast Cushion morning (August 29) was only attended by Bev Farley, Margaret Buchanan and Karen Hendry. I was unable to stay but the girls made themselves at home in my home office. We have plenty of cushions cut out thanks to Michelle who cut out and prepared about 30 cushions.

I was able to deliver all the completed cushions (about 30) to Sally at Mater Private Hospital. They were very desperate for some supplies so and I delivered

The next Cushion morning will be on October 31, as I will be away on holidays for the last Sunday in September. Perhaps there are some volunteers who are able to do some work at home? Please talk to be asap.

Race Day

We are at the "home turn" as far as getting numbers for our Race Day on 23 October. We are urgently needing to confirm some numbers with the Doomben people. So we need you to

work hard to get our numbers up for this event.

Please talk to family, friends, work colleagues about the day.

We are also still looking for raffle prizes or prizes for the fashion competitions. Anyone with any suggestions please call Karen and give the information.

Lyn Papa



CONVENTION 2004 REPORT

The Opening Ceremony to the Convention was as spectacular as I was led to expect. The members in National Dress certainly added colour and splendour to the occasion. The presentation and displaying of National flags on stage was quite a sight. The guest speaker for the opening ceremony was Noleen Heyzer the Executive Director of the United Nations Development fund for Women (UNIFEM). Ms Heyzer spoke of how UNIFEM was moved from just being a grant provider into a learning and advocacy organization that gives support to NGOs and the UN.

During the convention time we also heard from Barbara Fiorito. Barbara is Chair of the Board of Oxfam America and Deputy Chair of the

Board of Oxfam International. The programs that Oxfam set up throughout the world, train women in skills that can create income so that they can support themselves, their children and often their greater communities.

The United Nations Workshop was worthwhile, with helpful hints that will be put into practice. Speakers there were from UNESCO in Paris, Karen Nordmeyer co-ordinator sub committee Europe, Karen Segal - NGO Committee on Mental Health, and other representatives speaking on the abhorrent practice of the trafficking in human beings, civic and political rights and economy rights – meaning the right to

work – for simple things that we take for granted such as food, education and housing.

Dame Margaret Anstee (a friend of Denise Conroy's) was inducted as International Honorary Member of Zonta. Quite a remarkable lady who has achieved great things, often being the first women to make such achievements.

The notable mention for District 24 was our website being named 'Best District Site', so we must congratulate Ros Kinder as our webmaster for a mighty fine achievement.

from Margaret Casey

Contributions to this newsletter can be sent to Lynn Callander by Fax 3388 5942; email: lyncall@powerup.com.au or phoned to 3200 5942

UNITED NATIONS: WRAP-UP

Two women appointed to senior UN posts for gender issues, humanitarian relief

Secretary-General Kofi Annan announced the appointment of two women to senior posts in the United Nations dealing with gender issues and humanitarian affairs.

Rachel Mayanja, currently the Director of the Human Resources Management Division at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), is slated to become Mr. Annan's Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, moving back to the UN from the Rome job that she had held since July 2000. She succeeds Assistant-Secretary-General Angela King, who retired earlier this year.

Ms. Mayanja, a national of Uganda, joined the UN shortly after the 1975 UN World Conference for Women. She holds law degrees from Makerere University in Uganda and Harvard Law School in the United States.

The new Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator will be Margareta Wahlstrom. She most recently served as the Secretary-General's Deputy Special Representative for the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) in charge of relief, reconstruction and development. From 2000 to 2002 Ms. Wahlstrom was a consultant on emergency response issues and strategic and organizational development.

Ms. Wahlstrom, from Sweden, succeeds Carolyn McAskie, who is now Mr. Annan's Special Representative for Burundi and chief of the UN Operation (ONUB) in the Central African nation. She holds a degree in Economic History, Social Anthropology and Political Science.



Zonta

Spring Carnival

Race Day

Saturday 23 October

at

Doomben

Cost \$90 pp

Zonta Marquee includes buffet luncheon & entry

RSVP 1st October

Invite your friends

Asia-Pacific region urges more holistic approach to achieving gender equality

-Recommitting themselves to achieving gender equality and empowering women for decades to come, countries from Asia and the Pacific meeting at the United Nations regional commission in Bangkok (ESCAP) today called for a more all-embracing approach to understanding the issue.

At a high-level intergovernmental meeting convened at ESCAP to review achievements, gaps and challenges since the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, participants agreed on the need to promote economic and social rights, work with men to achieve gender equality, and forge partnerships.

The four-day meeting, which ended in the Thai capital today, highlighted five levels of partnerships: between men and women; between governments and civil society; among government ministries; between and among countries in terms of regional cooperation on trans-boundary issues such as trafficking, migration and the spread of HIV/AIDS; and at the global level.

Its recommendations and strategies will serve as the regional input to the global review and appraisal of the Beijing Platform for Action - adopted at the 1995 conference - **to be held next March**. More than 450 delegates from over 40 countries attended, including ministers or government representatives, participants from numerous civil society organizations, and officials from UN agencies and their development partners.

Delegates reported significant progress since 1995 including national action plans to promote gender equality, improvements in women's health, longer life expectancy, revision of discriminatory domestic laws and regulations, and affirmative measures to improve women's political participation.

They also stressed increased basic education levels and significant decrease in women's illiteracy rate, as well as poverty reduction and alleviation through providing small loans known as "micro credit," encouraging female entrepreneurship, and income-generating activities.

DATE CLAIMERS

Monday 27 September—Next Board Meeting

Friday 1st October—RSVP for Zonta Race Day to Karen

Sunday 17 October—UN Day Refugee Picnic at Gold Coast

Thursday 7 October—Janet Irwin Dinner

Monday 11 October—Next Dinner Meeting

But several countries identified persisting common gaps and challenges such as women's disproportionate representation among the poor, the high prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS among women, low level of women's participation in the decision-making at various levels and all forms of violence against women, including trafficking.

Women as peacemakers: from victims to re-builders of society

While the plight of women in war often gets close media attention, what is often overlooked is the vital role played by them in negotiating peace and rebuilding societies.

The recent commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the Rwanda genocide brought renewed focus on one of the many troubling aspects of those events: the deep trauma faced by Rwandan women who had survived the massacres after suffering indescribable humiliation, violence and sexual abuse. But today, as Rwanda moves gradually towards democracy, a lesser-known story is emerging: the vital role played by former victims in the efforts to build a new society.

In the September 2003 parliamentary elections in Rwanda, women secured 49% of seats in the legislature - the highest number of women parliamentarians anywhere in the world, overtaking Sweden with 45% and way above the world average of 15 %. In May 2003, Rwandans ratified a new constitution allotting 30% of decision-making positions to women, a step inspired by the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. However, the election results went beyond the prescribed quota, an outcome for which Rwandan women lobbied heavily. As the country undergoes a period of reconstruction, women are playing an ever more active role. With a cadre of women parliamentarians assuming leadership responsibilities, this praiseworthy development will need to be accompanied by sustained measures to promote democracy at all levels.

As Secretary-General Kofi Annan has pointed out, *"Women, who know the price of conflict so well, are also better equipped than men to prevent or resolve it. For generations, women have served as peace educators, both in their families and in their societies. They have proved instrumental in building bridges rather than walls."*